

NORTH BEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 17, 2015

Senior Center, 411 Main Ave. S., North Bend, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Hearing called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Cook, Gothelf, Kolodejchuk, Loudenback, Pettersen, and Williamson. Councilmember Rosen was excused.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Payroll – February 5, 2015 – 27210 through 27216, in the amount of **\$130,635.45**

Checks – February 17, 2015 – 60739 through 60781, in the amount of **\$295,291.98**

AB15-012 – Resolution 1673 Accepting NB Way Sidewalk Project – Downing to Orchard as Complete

AB15-013 – Resolution 1674 Adopting KC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

AB15-014 – Motion Authorizing Change Order for WWTP Improvement Project

AB15-015 – Motion Authorizing Extension of Animal Services ILA with King County

AB15-016 – Motion Authorizing Contract with AECOM for Engineering Services

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Williamson to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Dave Olson, 440 Main Avenue N., commented the Kiwanis had received several inquiries about the raffle items they had obtained from the United States Secret Service. He noted the items were of high quality and encouraged all to participate in the upcoming raffle. Additionally, he encouraged everyone to attend one of the Kiwanis weekly meetings that are held on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. at the Mt Si Golf Course.

Sandy Horvath, 1011 LaForest Drive SE, President of LaForest Holme Home Owner's Association (HOA), introduced incoming HOA President Cory Brannon and commented on the potential zoning change of property near their development from cottage residential to high density residential zoning. He expressed concern about the change and the potential for increased accidents in the area and suggested a decrease in speed from 35 mph to 25 mph on Cedar Falls Way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS:

State of the City Address – Mayor Hearing

Mayor Hearing delivered the following State of the City of North Bend 2015 address:

“Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council, Citizens, Property Owners, Staff and Friends; it is my great honor to present to you the North Bend 2015 State of the City Address.

I am very happy to say we continue to move in a positive financial direction, building upon the momentum established during my first two terms in office. In 2014 we experienced another year of growth in revenues which indicates that we may be seeing sustained recovery in the local economy. The City again was able to move forward with a comfortable 10% reserve on top of our general fund budget creating a safeguard against unexpected events in the coming year.

The City’s accomplishments in the next year will be built upon the successes of our past. The acquisition of water rights has led to an impressive amount of new development in our city. We issued 33 building permits for new homes during 2014, and are expecting similar activity in 2015. The City is currently processing applications for a total of 628 new building lots and new homes so you can see that staff is extremely busy processing development activity. Council also adopted code amendments last year to insure that our neighborhoods remain “highly livable” and development is consistent with our mission of “preserving the rural character of our community”. New Bulk and Dimensional standards were created that increased our minimum lot sizes and required larger setbacks between properties.

The citizens’ approval of the Transportation Benefit District has provided us with an ongoing revenue stream for transportation projects for the next eight years. This new source of revenue, combined with other City funds, will provide capital project funding to improve our roads and sidewalks. In 2015, we will be designing another major roundabout at Park Street. We will also be designing significant street improvements at Bendigo Blvd and Park Street to allow easier right turning movement so the Park Street bypass can be effectively used to assist folks attempting to move east-west through town. Additionally, we anticipate completing emergency repairs on NE 12th Street in order to provide safe travelling lanes on this existing road. We will be asking Council in 2015 to again consider its Transportation Impact Fee in order to have the fee more closely reflect the real transportation cost associated with new home construction to achieve Council’s goal that “growth pays for growth”.

In 2014, we replaced the failing 415th SE water line of nearly one mile at a cost of approximately \$1 million dollars. This project was substantially completed within budget and will insure reliable water service to our residents and avoid costly water line breaks in future years. Notwithstanding this significant improvement, we will be looking at

additional capital investments in our water system as we replace remaining 50 year old water lines.

This year, the City had a challenge with our wastewater treatment plant when we learned our functional capacity was much lower than our permitted capacity due to several pinch points in the collection system. Council acted quickly and by emergency resolution authorized over \$1.3 million dollars in improvements to our WWTP. I am happy to report these improvements are being completed on time and the City is now issuing certificates of concurrency for sewer. In order to respond to anticipated growth in our community and insure reliability and sustainability, Staff and I will also be evaluating additional improvements we can make to our plant.

It has been almost one year since we switched police providers and started contracting with Snoqualmie. We have experienced a marked reduction in complaints regarding the criminal transient population and we are very much looking forward to seeing the results of our citizen satisfaction survey. I anticipate we will see what our citizens have been anecdotally telling us - they generally feel safer since the switch. Our citizens favorably responded to our request for an 8th police officer by passing Proposition One this past November. This new officer will allow the City to have 2 police officers on duty for 18 hours a day. This is a significantly higher level of police service than we had under our prior police contract. Thank you voters again for trusting us with your money and for investing in our number one priority - public safety.

Our Council was willing to be entrepreneurial last year in order to encourage downtown economic development by entering into a lease and making tenant improvements for a new wine tasting business which is now located in the City's old fire station. We have heard from our downtown brick and mortar businesses and citizens that this business has been a great addition to our historic downtown and we hope it will also help to promote tourism to our area.

Our new Visitor Information Center near Bartell's opened this September during the Jazz Walk in its highly visible location. This new public facility will promote tourism by providing information about our beautiful region to our visitors. It also houses the Mountain View Art Galley where our local artists have an opportunity to display and sell their artwork. The City has partnered with the Downtown Association who staffs the VIC and in 2015 we will be evaluating ways for the VIC to be self-supporting in the future. We are pleased to have been able to locate the VIC on this vital street corner at the entrance to our historic downtown.

We are also excited to have broken ground this year on a new hotel located on the corner of Bendigo Blvd and South Fork Avenue. This site will eventually have 2 separate hotel towers. During phase 1, approximately 110 hotel rooms, meetings rooms and possibly a new restaurant will be constructed. The applicant has estimated they will be open for business in September of 2016. I see this project as pivotal in drawing

visitors to our downtown core and fulfilling the vision of our branding and marketing efforts to make North Bend a recreational destination.

After many years of planning and citizen involvement, we will construct a new Downtown Plaza this year at the intersection of Main Avenue and North Bend Way. The City was fortunate to receive a \$350,000 grant to offset part of the costs of this project. This project will enhance pedestrian amenities, create safer crossings and create a downtown plaza to attract people to shop, dine and enjoy our historic downtown core.

City staff is constantly looking for ways to increase efficiencies and cost effectiveness. In 2014, Council adopted a resolution to proceed with a biennial budget to reduce budgeting redundancies, and provide for biennial audits as allowed by state law.

The City had the opportunity to practice its emergency preparedness this year when an entire City block was decimated as a result of an accidental natural gas leak and explosion. I am proud of our first responders and staff for the incredible work they performed both in responding to the initial fire and crisis and then working effectively with both federal and state agencies to provide relief to our citizens adversely impacted by this tragedy. We are grateful that no human lives were lost, injuries were minimal and that property owners have been moving forward to rebuild and repair damage from the blast.

The City continues to expand communications within the community. Our new website continues to contain a host of offerings including video access to Council meetings and an increased social media presence. Our goal is to be a transparent government; we want to be successful in communicating with our citizens. The North Bend Webcam is a favorite link accessed from the City's website. This Webcam displays a live view of the City, laid out on the valley floor with Mount Si and the Cascades as a backdrop as viewed from Rattlesnake Ridge, be sure to check it out!

On the tourism and economic development front, City Staff has coordinated an amazing array of events over the past several years and 2015 will not be disappointing. Upcoming events include the North Bend Jazz Walk on March 14, the North Bend Farmers Market and Summer Concert Series beginning in June, the 5th annual Downtown Block Party on July 18th with a car show on July 19th, the Festival at Mt Si held the second weekend of August, and the Adventure Sport Festival and the North Bend Blues Walk will be held in September and the North Bend Mountain Film Festival which runs October through December, culminating with the Holiday Tree Lighting Festival. Go to the City's website under News and Highlights and check out the Highlighted Events for the full 2015 Schedule of Events.

The City in partnership with Si View Metropolitan Park District will be opening a new park at Tollgate Farm early this year which will include a children's play area, trails, restrooms and parking. This will provide an opportunity to enjoy the pristine beauty of

Tollgate with its spectacular views of Mt Si. In addition, the City in partnership with the Snoqualmie Valley Little League will finalize design of improvements at Torguson Park to include new restrooms and a concession stand. Finally, the City will be making some upgrades to our beloved EJ Roberts Park by adding a new pedestrian bridge and hopefully a picnic shelter.

We continue discussions about the benefits of downtown redevelopment and moving City Hall to North Bend Way. Council will be refining its vision for a Civic Center in 2015 with discussions with the community on funding alternatives. I believe that, with the help of the citizens, a major facelift and economic boost is possible.

As you can see, the staff is hard at work and the city is growing. We had a good 2014 and I look forward to continued positive growth in 2015. Thank you, Citizens, once again, for trusting us to be good stewards of your money. This will be a time when our challenges should bring out the best in all of us and prove even more that North Bend is a City “Easy to reach, and Hard to Leave”.

Presentation – Police Services Year End Review & Police Services Survey Results

Police Chief McCulley provided a year-end report which included discussion on the following items: staffing, calls for service, patrol statistics, community oriented policing and event, records/evidence, \$30,000 emphasis patrol, training hours, 2014 successes and challenges, and 2015 goals.

Chief McCulley reviewed the results of the recent survey on police services and noted overall the community reported feeling an increase in personal safety and decrease in crime within the City in the past twelve months. Additionally, he reported survey respondents indicated the Snoqualmie Police Department had a high level of response (95%) to community needs and overall satisfaction level of 88% for police services.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission

A report of the February 12th meeting was provided.

Parks Commission

A report of the January 28th meeting was provided.

Economic Development Commission

No report – The January 22, 2015 meeting was cancelled.

Community & Economic Development Committee – Councilmember Kolodejchuk, Chair

A report of the February 11th meeting was provided.

Finance & Administration Committee – Councilmember Cook, Chair
No report – The February 3, 2015 meeting was cancelled.

Public Health & Safety Committee – Councilmember Gothelf, Chair
A report of the February 10th meeting was provided.

Transportation & Public Works Committee – Councilmember Loudenback, Chair
A report of the February 11th meeting was provided.

Council Workstudy – Mayor Pro Tem Williamson
No report – The January 27th Worksudy was cancelled.

Eastside Fire & Rescue Board Meeting – Councilmember Gothelf
A report of the last meeting was provided.

INTRODUCTIONS:

AB15-017 – Motion Authorizing ILA for Public Defense Monitoring Services **Audio: 48:11**

City Administrator Lindell provided the staff report.

Councilmember Gothelf **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Loudenback to approve AB15-017, authoring the Mayor to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the cities of Sammamish, Issaquah and Snoqualmie for public defense monitoring services. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

AB15-018 – Motion Authorizing Ethnographic Study of Swing Rock **Audio: 56:05**

Senior Planner McCarty provided the staff report. King County Historic Preservation Program Planner Charlie Sundberg was present to answer questions regarding the ethnographic study.

Councilmember Kolodejchuk **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Loudenback to approve AB15-018, authorizing the City to contribute \$2,000 toward the preparation of an Ethnographic Study to Consider Nomination of the Swing Rock as a Historic Landmark. The motion **PASSED** 4-2 (Cook, Gothelf).

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES:

Councilmember Pettersen thanked Chief McCulley for his report on police services and the recent police survey. Additionally, she thanked Chief McCulley and Captain Almquist for their excellent leadership skills and the North Bend police officers for their professionalism and courtesy to the citizens of North Bend.

Councilmember Kolodejchuk reported the Life Skills fundraiser had raised over \$40,000 and had \$10,000 more to collect to reach their fundraising goal. He noted that an upcoming ASB auction would be held for those wishing to donate to this worthy cause. Additionally, he informed staff of grant funding available through the Transportation Improvement Board and requested they investigate the potential funding opportunities.

Councilmember Loudenback reported Metro started a new bus service Route 628 in the Snoqualmie Valley with commuter service every thirty minutes to the Issaquah Highlands Park-and-Ride.

Councilmember Gothelf announced the Snoqualmie Valley School District passed their recent bond measure. He also mentioned a recent incident at the high school involving pictures taken of individuals without their permission and strongly discouraged this type of behavior.

Councilmember Williamson encouraged all to read the recent article in City Vision magazine which contained input from City Administrator Lindell on emergency management. Also, he reported CERT training would be starting on March 21st at the Snoqualmie Fire Station.

City Administrator Lindell thanked Councilmember Loudenback for his advocacy of behalf of the citizens of North Bend regarding improvements to bus service. She thanked Councilmember Williamson for mentioning emergency management and noted the City would be holding a second table top emergency management exercise September.

Mayor Hearing spoke regarding the following items:

- New Commuter Metro Route 628
- Road Improvements on SE 140th Street/East North Bend Way
- Snoqualmie Valley Teen Closet – March 4th 4 to 6 p.m.
- Cancellation of February 24th Council Workstudy

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Kolodejchuk **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Gothelf. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kenneth G. Hearing, Mayor

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk